

References

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Scaphisoma assimile Erichson (Col.: Scaphidiidae) in Kent.

On 27th March 1974, I took two specimens of *Scaphisoma* by sieving some fungus-infected plant litter on Hothfield Common (TQ/9645), Kent. N.H. Joy in his *A Practical Handbook of British Beetles*, 1932, gives only *S. agaricinum* (Linn.) and *boleti* (Panzer), but the Hothfield specimens would not satisfactorily fit either species. Recourse was then made to Freude H., Harde K.W. and Lohse G.A., *Die Kafer Mitteleuropas*, Band 3, 1971, where the specimen ran down to *Scaphisoma assimile* Erichson, identification being confirmed by the male genitalia which matched the illustration therein perfectly.

W.W. Fowler in his *The Coleoptera of the British Isles*, Vol. 3, 1889 under *S. assimile* he gives "Introduced by Mr Rye (*Ent. mon Mag.* ii, 140) on a single specimen taken at Coombe Wood; he says of it, "My insect exhibits all the characters, except the narrowness, as compared with *S. boleti*, but I think it can hardly fail to be the true *assimile*" (*Ent. Ann.* 1866, 77). Apart from being listed in both the 1945 and 1977 editions of Kloet & Hincks, *A Check List of British Insects* I have been unable to find any other published records of this species as a British insect.

I must thank Mr A.A. Allen for prompting me to publish this belated record.— ERIC G. PHILP, Natural History Section, Maidstone Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH.

A note on the life history of *Semiothisa brunneata* Thunb. (Lep.: Geometridae) Rannoch Looper.

In Skinner (*Moths of the British Isles*, Viking, 1984) it is incorrectly stated that *S. brunneata* overwinters as a small larva. Had the author taken the trouble to consult Buckler (*Larvae of the British Butterflies and Moths*, Vol. VII, Ray Soc., 1896) this crass error could have been avoided. In fact the eggs of *S. brunneata* do not hatch until the early spring as Mr R.G. Chatelain observed when recently rearing this species.— BERNARD SKINNER, 5 Rawlins Close, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JS.